

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph before "Field of the Invention" on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/732,357 filed December 7, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/172,370, filed December 16, 1999, which is incorporated herein in full by reference.--

Please replace Brief Description of the Drawings for FIGURES 3 and 4 in the Specification, on Page 5, line 38 and Page 6, lines 1 and 3 with the following rewritten descriptions:

--FIGURE 3: Amino acid alignment of RG1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) with the sequence of rat Mindin (SEQ ID NO: 13). The sequence of RG1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) is on the top.

FIGURE 4: Polynucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 1) and deduced amino acid (SEQ ID NO: 2) sequences of RG1.--

Please replace Paragraph 3 on Page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention is based in part on the structural homology shown in Figure 3 between RG1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and rat Mindin (SEQ ID NO: 13), another member of the extracellular matrix protein family. The amino acid sequence of RG1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) is approximately 89.7% similar to rat Mindin (SEQ ID NO: 13).--